

"There has been much too much effort elsewhere on the romantic and recreational notions of volunteerism," he said, noting that his coalition is in the second year of a 10-year focus on early- and family-literacy programs, of which America Reads is part.

To that end, Harris Wofford, a key player in the America Reads program nationally, will address the Youth Service Leadership Conference later this morning at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The campus compact also is co-sponsoring a gathering Tuesday in Minneapolis of 20 college and university presidents, 20 superintendents of Minnesota public schools and various corporate and foundation leaders. The meeting is expected to result in stronger campus community and school partnerships throughout the state, Langseth said.

NEW APPROACHES

The compact's interest in America Reads and other literacy programs was piqued by a startling statistic: Four of every 10 fourth-grade students failed to attain the basic level of reading on the National Assessment of Education Progress in 1994.

The resulting trend was equally alarming: Students who fail to read well by fourth grade have higher dropout rates and often have much more difficulty learning to read later in life, explains Catherine Korda, the compact's VISTA literacy coordinator.

However, she noted that national research shows "sustained, individualized attention and tutoring after school and during the summer, when combined with parental involvement and quality school instruction, can raise reading levels."

Armed with the knowledge, Clinton called for college presidents to increase their work-study allocations to finance 100,000 America Reads tutors. As of Feb. 23, more than 900 colleges and universities nationally have accepted the challenge.

Congress allocated \$52 million to improve and expand existing programs that support children's and literacy programs as well as training teachers to run them. The Corporation for National Service got an extra \$24 million for VISTA programs, \$25 million for AmeriCorps, and \$19 million for the National Senior Service Corps. programs to aid in that effort.

Beginning in July, 14 VISTA workers will be assigned to Minnesota college and university campuses to organize literacy programs like America Reads in elementary schools. In a break from the past, college students no longer will have to be eligible for federal work-study programs to participate in America Reads.

"This is such a natural fit for college and university students to tutor other students," said Jim Scheibel, senior adviser to Wofford and a former St. Paul mayor. "You can't sit with these kids and become part of their lives and not be committed to paying attention to the kinds of schools we have for young people."

Scheibel understands the process all too well. For the past four years, he has served as a mentor/tutor for Antonio Murden, a poor Washington, D.C., public school student.

Scheibel and his wife, Mary Pat Lee, successfully sued the district school system to help Murden, now 17, get the education he needed in a private school for special needs students. (The Pioneer Press profiled Scheibel's efforts to help Murden two years ago.)

"We've seen great improvement in Antonio," Scheibel said. "He recently went up another level in school. His spelling is terrific, and I've seen his whole self-image greatly improve as he's learned to read."

"We have to do this just like that—one student at a time, one school at a time, one

neighborhood at a time. Just look at the work Metro State has done in St. Paul."

'AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY'

Metropolitan State's tutors and volunteers in the America Reads program this year have served more than 200 students at Daytons Bluff and the Richard R. Green Central Park School in Minneapolis, said Susan Giguere, director of the university's Center for Community-Based Learning.

All told, the university and its community partners provided child and family literacy services to 420 people during the academic quarter ending March 31.

"It's hard to judge from (standardized) testing whether we are making a difference because many of the students you test today will be going tomorrow," Giguere said. "But I can see progress in the eyes of these students. They are reading more now. Even their parents are excited about reading."

Maureen Sauve, 35, a single mother of 2-year-old Hannah, is such a believer in the program that she will begin work on a master's degree in education at the University of Minnesota this summer. Like Arone, she hopes someday to be a licensed teacher.

"This has been an incredible opportunity for me," she said. "At first I was really distracted. The kids have so much energy. But I can see the progress these children are making. All of a sudden, reading clicks for them."

The former legal secretary returned to school after the birth of her daughter to fulfill a lifelong dream of being a teacher. She's getting a taste of that dream on a federal work-study grant through Metropolitan State.

FOUR BOOKS, NO DOUBTS

Arone didn't qualify for a work-study grant because he makes too much money. But he, too, was hooked by volunteering in Metropolitan State's after-school and family-literacy programs at Daytons Bluff.

He decided to return to school two years ago at the suggestion of his wife, Debra, after working in a smoke-filled bar began to irritate his asthma.

Now he gets to work in a smoke-free environmental and has the incalculable pleasure of seeing a young mind bloom with the joy of reading.

His reading session this day with Kiara ends on a positive note. She has read four books, her progress marked by tiny footprint-shaped stickers that eventually will earn her a free book.

Kiara, like her mentor, has no doubt she will achieve her goal.

"I was the first one to learn to read in my family. So I will be able to do more things when I grow up," she volunteers before breaking into a broad smile. "I'm the most responsible one. I do the chores around the house. I also taught my little brother and biggest brother to read."

Arone sits nearby with a big smile of his own, acknowledging later that by fitting him into her busy schedule, Kiara has changed his life as well.

MAY 3RD—POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is Spring, and we live in a glorious time of rebirth and renewal. We meet to celebrate Polish Constitution Day. And how appropriate

it is that we celebrate as well the Senate vote approving NATO expansion.

In 1791, enormous challenges faced Polish reformers. Prussia, Russia and Austria, aggressive, imperial states, threatened the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth. In 1772, they partitioned the Commonwealth, and were threatening to repeat the disgraceful deed. The Commonwealth was but a Russian satellite, and its once powerful parliamentary democracy weakened by political corruption. The moment was now to transform Poland into a new nation, with the full benefits of liberty, equality, and fraternity available to every citizen.

The reformers gathered in Warsaw on May 3, 1791, met the challenge. Motivated by a deep desire for freedom, they set about to liberate themselves "from the disgraceful shackles of foreign influence." "Prizing more than life and every personal consideration, political existence, external independence, and internal liberty of the nation," they adopted a constitution for "future generations, for the sake of the public good, for scurring our liberty, and maintaining our kingdom and our possessions."¹

The new constitution electrified Europe. Shunning the violence of the French Revolution, the Polish reformers revolutionized their government and their society. The King, Stanislaus August, was now a constitutional monarch. The political devices which had opened the way for the corruption of the Commonwealth—the liberum veto (free veto) and the confederation—were abolished forever. Religious freedom was proclaimed. The burgers acquired political rights. The new constitution also implied a radical improvement for the peasant serfs, the largest social class.

Poland's rebirth threatened her feudal neighbors. In 1793 and 1795 they partitioned the Commonwealth twice more. For 123 years, until the end of World War 1, Poland was missing from Europe's map. President Woodrow Wilson supported Poland's rebirth, and independence came again, but it was brief. In 1939, Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia repeated the crimes of their 18th century predecessors; they invaded and partitioned Poland. And at the war's end, Churchill and Roosevelt conceded Eastern Europe to Soviet control.

The memories of May 3rd, of 19th century insurrections against Russia, and of heroism and martyrdom during the Holocaust of World War II, sustained the Polish people during the long-night of Soviet occupation. Poles objected to being cutoff from Europe and confined to an alien empire. In 1956, 1968, 1970, and 1976, Poles protested.

Inspired by Pope John II, Poles underwent a modern rebirth. Solidarity and Lech Walcsa challenged the false Soviet ideology. The weapons were not guns and tanks, but the truth, human dignity and civil rights, and the eternal insistence upon individual freedom. The West hailed the Polish workers' heroic, non-violent struggle. In 1983 Lech Walesa received the Nobel Peace Prize.

The patient struggle finally bore fruit in 1989. The countries of Eastern Europe regained their sovereignty, and the civil empire distinguished.

The Soviet Empire collapsed because of internal pressures, but also because of Western

¹"New Constitution of the Government of Poland established by the Revolution of The Third of May, 1791." (London: J. Debrett, 2nd edition, 1791), 4.

resolve. Since 1949, NATO, a system of collective security based on shared democratic values, kept the peace and kept the Soviets in check. NATO is history's most successful alliance.

Now is the moment to consolidate the western victory in the Cold War, and to take into NATO the new democracies of Eastern Europe. NATO expansion will enhance Europe's political stability. It will strengthen the new democracies. These countries can no longer be the target of Russian or other imperial ambitions.

Since 1989, the countries of Eastern Europe have undergone a remarkable rebirth. The reconstruction of democracy and of democratic societies is underway. Free elections are a hallmark of new political cultures. The East Europeans have also begun to integrate themselves into Western economic institutions. They are on the way back to Europe.

Membership in NATO is a culminating moment in Eastern Europe's political and economic rebirth. Today we gather here to celebrate Poland's constitution of May 3rd, 1791 and her rebirth in the 18th century. At the same time, we celebrate and recognize her modern rebirth. We welcome Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary as America's newest NATO allies. With a Europe renewed and re-invigorated, we move forward with confidence into the next millennium. In securing north Atlantic collective security, we secure and pass on to the next generation our common democratic values.

TRIBUTE TO DICK FEENEY,
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant. When I was elected to Congress in 1992, one of my top priorities was securing the funding to guarantee that the important Westside Light Rail project would open on time and on budget. While I have had the opportunity to work with many good people at Tri-Met throughout my six years in Congress, Dick Feeney has been a constant source of good counsel and support. I would not have had as much success without his steadying influence.

Dick's contributions to Oregon are not limited to his work with our local transit agency, Tri-Met, where he has worked for twenty years. Dick began his distinguished career in 1966 as a Legislative Assistant to Congresswoman Edith Green, and later worked for the Multnomah County Chairman. He was an instructor at Portland State University and served as Director of the Institute of policy Studies. He has been President of the Oregon Transit Association, and is currently a member of the Archdiocesan Board of Catholic Charities and the disciplinary panel of the Oregon State Bar. I also know that Dick can carry an Irish tune with the best of them.

Dick Feeney is one of those people who effectively and consistently serve the public, day in and day out, and never ask for any recognition. Today, on behalf of Portland and all my constituents, I would like to give him the credit he deserves. Happy Birthday, Dick.

RETIREMENT OF FREDERICK P. HITZ, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, on April 30, Fred Hitz will complete seven and one-half years in office as the Central Intelligence Agency's inspector general, and a career in the federal government which exceeds twenty years.

In addition to service at the CIA before his confirmation as Inspector General, Mr. Hitz served in Republican and Democratic administrations in a variety of demanding positions at the Departments of State, Defense, and Energy. His tenure in each of these posts was characterized by uncommon dedication and exceptional performance. Mr. Hitz' experience in government, his first-hand knowledge of the unique aspects of working in the CIA, and the high regard in which he was held on Capitol Hill, made him an excellent choice in 1990 to be the CIA's first presidentially appointed inspector general.

Inspectors general with independence guaranteed by the fact that they are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the President are essential to the effective operation of executive agencies, and to the maintenance of the public's confidence that officials at these agencies will be held accountable for their actions. I suspect that only by serving in one of these posts could someone fully appreciate how difficult it is to function simultaneously as a senior manager, and an independent critic, of the same agency. As challenging as service as an inspector general must be at most agencies, it is even more so at the CIA where the need to compartment activities for security purposes makes it hard to trace the path of certain decisions, and where the inclination is not to volunteer information, especially to those not perceived to be part of "the team."

Fred Hitz has worked tirelessly to create and sustain an inspector general's process which was supported both inside and outside of the CIA. That he has succeeded is a testament to his great ability and unquestionable integrity. The reputation which the Office of the Inspector General enjoys for conducting audits, inspections, and investigations which are thorough and follow the facts wherever they might lead, and for making tough recommendations for improvement regardless of their popularity, is a reflection of Mr. Hitz' leadership abilities. He will be sorely missed at the CIA, but his most important legacy may be the degree to which he has institutionalized in the inspector general's office his commitment to uncovering the truth.

A graduate of Princeton University, Mr. Hitz will be returning to his alma mater, this time as a member of the faculty. Anyone who has heard or read Fred's views on subjects like the organization of the intelligence community, or the community's role in the post-Cold War world, knows him to be a person who gives important issues great thought and who expresses himself on them with clarity and care. He will be an excellent teacher from whom students at Princeton will learn a great deal.

Mr. Hitz has served the country with great distinction. I want to wish him, and his wife,

Mary Buford, only the best in the years to come. I hope that he will not mind an occasional call for advice from those of us who have come to rely on his counsel.

**BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY
ACT OF 1998**

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2400) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to state my disappointment that this legislation contains no legislative language authorizing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds to be utilized for the operation and construction of telecommuting centers.

In 1991 ISTEA broke new ground by allowing CMAQ funding to be used to study the benefits of telecommuting centers. These centers are presently funded by the General Services Administration and allow federal employees to use an alternative workplace in lieu of traveling to their main offices several times a month. This concept, which has been tested in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties, has been very successful.

I remember vividly speaking to a young woman about the impact of telecommuting about a year ago. She was the mother of two small children who lived about an hour and a half outside of Washington. Every morning she got up before 5 a.m. in order to get her children to daycare and still be at work by 8 a.m. On a good day, her morning commute was about 90 minutes. However, if there was an accident or bad weather it could take her two or more hours to get to work. After getting two sleepy children ready for the day and fighting traffic she told me that she often felt exhausted before she even started her job as a computer programmer.

Mr. Speaker, there is a telecommuting center located not far from her home in Lexington Park. A few times a month she works out of the telecommuting center instead of driving up to Washington. What is the impact? For starters there is one less car on the highway. One less car equals less congestion on the crowded Washington metropolitan corridor and a decrease in air pollution. She is also more productive at her job as a programmer because she is better rested and less stressed, she gets to spend more time with her children, and she saves money, gas, and wear and tear on her car with a shorter commute.

Mr. Speaker, telecommuting makes a real difference in the lives of constituents in my district. There is a need for additional centers in Maryland and the rest of the country and I hope that H.R. 2400 will be amended in Conference to allow CMAQ funds to be used for the design, construction, and operation of telecommuting centers.